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curing the copies which had the article in, sent the same to a New York paper thinking he had accomplished a great joke. This is practically all the information I can obtain in regard to the matter but can state that there is no truth or foundation in the report whatever.

Very truly yours,  
(Signed) M. B. TAYLER

It is clear from this reply that the case of Mrs. Bradlee, so far as the number of children is concerned, is spurious and ought to be dropped from the list of authenticated multiple human births.

G. H. PARKER

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

#### SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

*Some American Medical Botanists commemorated in our Botanical Nomenclature.* By HOWARD A. KELLY. Troy, N. Y., The Southworth Company. 1914. 8vo. 215 pp., 42 pl.

In this attractive and beautifully printed volume, which is at once a contribution to medical history and the history of botany, Professor Kelly has conceived the genial thought of giving some memorial records of American physician-botanists whose names have been commemorated in plants, some of which were discovered or first described by them. This eponymic practise was introduced by Linnæus, who, when he found some guest or disciple to be heartily interested in botany, would often dedicate a new genus or species to him. Before Linnæus, plants were called after the names of the saints, *e. g.*, St. John's wort, St. Ignatius beans, etc.; and Pliny gives Eupatorium as the cognomen of Mithridates, King of Pontus, who discovered its virtues. Some of the eponyms formed from proper names were very inharmonious or barbarous, *e. g.*, *Andrezejofskya*, *Eschscholtzia* (Chamisso), *Sirhookera* and *Peckifungus* (Kuntze). Some of these names were even misspelled, *e. g.*, *Wisteria* for *Wistar*, but on the whole, what Kelly calls "amical floral nomenclature" was a pleasant practise, particularly in the eighteenth century, when friendly relations between European and American physicians were very close indeed. It is worth while to

list Dr. Kelly's remarkable series of botanist-physicians with the plants attached to their names. They are:

- Michel S. Sarrazin (1659-1734)—*Sarracenia purpurea* (Tournefort).
- John Mitchell (1680-1768)—*Mitchella repens* (Linnæus).
- Cadwalader Colden (1688-1776)—*Coldenia procumbens* (Linnæus).
- John Clayton (1693-1773)—*Claytonia Virginica* (Gronovius).
- John Bartram (1699-1777)—*Lantana Bartramii* (Baldwin).
- Alexander Garden (1728-1792)—*Gardenia jasminoides* (Ellis).
- Adam Kuhn (1741-1817)—*Kuhnia Eupatorioides* (Linnæus).
- Moses Marshall (1758-1813)—*Marshallia trinerva* (Schreber).
- Caspar Wistar (1761-1818)—*Wistaria speciosa* (Nuttall).
- Benjamin Smith Barton (1766-1815)—*Bartonia decapetala* (Muhlenburg).
- David Hosack (1769-1835)—*Hosackia bicolor* (Douglas).
- William Baldwin (1779-1819)—*Baldwinia uniflora* (Nuttall).
- William Darlington (1782-1863)—*Darlingtonia Californica* (Torrey).
- James Macbride (1784-1817)—*Macbridea pulchra* (Elliott).
- Jacob Bigelow (1787-1879)—*Bigelowia Menziesii* (De Candolle).
- Charles Wilkins Short (1794-1863)—*Shortia galacifolia* (Gray).
- John Torrey (1796-1873)—*Torreya taxifolia* (Arnott).
- Zina Pitcher (1797-1872)—*Carduus Pitcheri* (Torrey).
- Charles Pickering (1805-1878)—*Pickeringia Montana* (Nuttall).
- John Leonard Riddell (1807-1865)—*Riddellia tagetina* (Nuttall).
- George Engelmann (1809-1884)—*Engelmannia pinnatifida* (Torrey).
- Alvan Wentworth Chapman (1809-1899)—*Chapmannia Floridana* (Torrey & Gray).
- Asa Gray (1810-1888)—*Lilium Grayii* (Hooker & Arnott).
- Arthur Wellesley Saxe (1820-1891)—*Rumex Saxeii* (Kellogg).
- Charles Christopher Parry (1823-1890)—*Lilium Parryi* (Watson).

Elliot C. Howe (1828-1899)—*Stropharia Howeana* (Peck).

William Herbst (1833-1907)—*Sparassis Herbstii* (Peck).

George Edward Post (1838-1909)—*Postia Lanuginosa* (Boissier & Blanche).

Joseph Trimble Rothrock (1839- )—*Rothrockia cordifolia* (Gray).

Harry Hapeman (1858- )—*Sullivantia Hapemani* (Coulter).

The biographies of all these worthies are presented in exhaustive and attractive style and will be a valuable source of reference to the future medical historian. Some of them, such as Adam Kuhn, B. S. Barton, Jacob Bigelow, George Engelmann and Asa Gray, are, of course, of great importance in the history of American botany. Alexander Garden, of the gardenia, or cape jessamine, was a prominent figure in the group of South Carolina physicians which Welch has pronounced to be the most important in the colonial period. The volume is extensively illustrated with rare portraits, facsimiles and beautiful photographs of the plants. To Dr. Kelly's friends it will always have a personal interest because he has put so much of his lovable self into it.

F. H. GARRISON

ARMY MEDICAL MUSEUM

*The Deaf. Their Position in Society and the Provision for Their Education in the United States.* By HARRY BEST. New York, Thomas Y. Crowell Co. 12mo. Pp. 340. Cloth.

There is, perhaps, no more accurate indication of the state of civilization reached by any people than the extent to which its handicapped classes are assisted to overcome their disadvantages and to approach a normal position in society. Judged by this standard, the people of the United States are rapidly advancing. Mr. Best has gathered a mass of very valuable data concerning a much-misunderstood class and embodied it in his book in a clear, intelligent and interesting arrangement.

It would be well if some way could be found to compel the reading of this book by every commissioner of education in the country, as

well as by others to whom the citizens have entrusted the shaping of educational procedure. The problem of the deaf has passed from the realm of charity to that of education, and the solution of it has become an integral part of the task of every public-school system. If the knowledge contained in Mr. Best's book could be assimilated by those in educational authority throughout the country, the deaf would be immensely benefited.

Like every other human activity that has not as yet been reduced to an exact science, the effort to enable the deaf to overcome their great handicap opens the way to many differences of opinion as to how it can be most efficiently accomplished.

Mr. Best endeavors to state the facts and let his readers arrive at their own opinions. But he very properly sums up his book in a few general conclusions.

He finds the matter of paramount importance to be the preventing of deafness, and that, up to the present time, this has received only minor attention, but is likely to receive a greater proportion hereafter because of the present general warfare against disease, and the campaign for eugenics. He points out that the two elements to be principally controlled are consanguineous and syphilitic marriages, as well as marriages between persons having deaf relatives, and second, the element of watchful supervision over the ears in connection with such diseases as scarlet fever, meningitis, measles, etc., since three fourths of the cases of adventitious deafness come as a secondary result of infectious diseases. Fifty-two per cent. of the cases of total deafness occur before the age of two years. If, through some agency like the "Child Bureau" of the national government, parents could be informed of the exceptional danger to the hearing during the first two years of life, they might be induced to secure more medical supervision of their children's ears, noses and throats during the early years. That, combined with increased intelligence concerning this matter on the part of physicians, would reduce the percentage of early deafness.

Second in importance to the prevention of